

Montgomery County Citizens Review Panel (MCCRP)

July 12, 2022 Meeting

Minutes

Persons Present:

Wilma Brier
Laura Coyle
Katy Dunn
Kay Farley, CRBC Representative

Marci McCoy-Roth
Stacey McNeely, 2022-2023 Chair
Lisa Merkin, CWS Administrator
Ron Whalen

Welcome

Ms. Stacey McNeely called the meeting to order.

Review and Approval of the Minutes

The draft minutes of the May 10, 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Wilma Brier made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Laura Coyle seconded the motion, which was approved.

The draft minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were also distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Wilma Brier made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Lisa Merkin seconded the motion, which was approved.

Agency Report

Ms. Lisa Merkin reviewed the agency's data for May 2022.

Data Element	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Assessment					
Number of calls to screening unit	929	1187	1378	949	1166
Number of new Alternative Response (AR) Investigations	83	91	130	54	106
Number of new Investigation Response (IR) Investigations	51	86	86	61	88
Out of Home					
Number of new out of home placements (entries)	7	8	16	4	18
Total children who left care (exits)	13	16	10	5	7
Total out-of-home children in care at month's end	342	334	340	339	350
Placement					
Number of children in foster care	204	204	211	208	215
Number of children placed with relatives	79	71	71	71	73
Number of children in residential placement	59	59	58	60	62
Length of Stay					
Average (mean) length of stay in foster care (months)	31	31	31	32	31
Median length of stay in foster care (months)	27	28	26	27	27
Reports					
Reports of child maltreatment	532	686	832	573	701
New non-CPS	55	71	88	49	48

The agency expects to see a dip in reports of maltreatment in June due to the end of the school year as many reports come from the schools.

The agency continues to average 20 to 30 vacancies in social worker positions. They recently have been able to hire some of the students that had been interning with the agency this past year. The agency has a robust student intern program. The agency usually has 10 to 12 master's level social work students interning with the agency each year. However, enrollment at the universities in the Social Work Master's Programs has been going down. As such, the agency may not be able to recruit as many students as in the past. The agency has contracted with Casey Family Programs to look at workforce issues and utilization of staff.

The agency recently ran resource home recruitment ads on the WPCG radio station and some Spanish-speaking radio stations. The agency also held two recruitment events. The staff now need to evaluate the results of those efforts. Ms. Merkin is interested in working more with the faith community, but currently does not have the staff to do that.

Next Step: Ms. Merkin will get back to the MCCRCP on how the members can be of assistance with resource home recruitment.

Ms. Merkin shared a copy of agency's process map with the MCCRCP. As reported previously, the agency will identify two to three process points to examine for racial disproportionality and racial equity.

Collaborating with the Montgomery County Board of Social Services

Ms. McNeely will follow-up with the Montgomery County Board of Social Services regarding possible coordination on mental health issues.

Next Step: Ms. Marci McCoy-Roth will provide contact information for the Board's leadership to Ms. McNeely.

Spring Forum

Ms. McCoy-Roth advised that the Spring Forum was very well attended and had informative presentations. She also pointed out that there seemed to be very good interest in the breakout session for youth. Ms. Kay Farley reported that the Spring Forum planning committee had not yet published the results of the post-forum evaluations.

Planning for 2023 Spring Forum will likely not begin until January 2023. At a future date, the MCCRCP will need to decide on whether to co-sponsor the 2023 event.

LGBTQ Subcommittee

Ms. Katy Dunn circulated a draft white paper summarizing the survey responses.

Next Step: MCCRCP members will review and provide feedback on the draft white paper to Ms. Dunn prior to the MCCRCP's next meeting.

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Laura Brown advised Ms. McNelly that she will have a draft summary of the survey responses available for the next MCCRCP meeting.

MCCRCP Administration

Ms. McNeely advised that she had set up a public Google Docs site for the MCCRCP agendas, minutes, and annual reports. The members-only site will continue to be used for draft documents and resource materials.

She has also established two Microsoft Teams meeting links. One link will be for public meetings. The other link will be for executive sessions.

The County announcement for the MCCRCP vacancies closed on June 16, 2022.

Next Step: Ms. Merkin will follow-up to see if applications to fill the vacancies were received.

Montgomery County volunteers are required to complete a registration form, which is maintained for record by the County. A copy of the form was circulated to the MCCSP members.

Next Step: MCCRCP members will individually complete the form and return it to Ms. Merkin.

The MCCRCP 2021-2022 annual report is due the end of September 2022.

Next Step: Ms. Farley will prepare a draft of the annual report and circulate it to MCCRCP members prior to the next MCCRCP meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022